

Poetry.

For the Free Press.

THE DYING YEAR.

Voices of the dying year!
I hear thee morn'g 'mong the thrumming pines,
Thy bitter 'plaint among the trailing vines,
Or, like some breeze from the moaning sea,
Wailest in dismal tones thy destiny.

Voices of the dying year!
I hear thee moan in accents sad and low,
As dwelling near the great abyss, thy woe,
Breaks forth like waves that chase the fettered
flame on the mid air wask along!

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Miscellany.

LYING.—An easy as it is to lie, I am astonished that there are so few engaged in the business, and that so few fast-rate lies are ever told.

I am not prepared to say how much real pleasure is in it, but I have no doubt that it is more cowardly than stealing, because there is less risk in it—it is more demoralizing than burglary, because there is no cure for it—it is more dangerous than swindling, because swindling does not hurt anybody else—it was the first one committed, because it was the easiest and most natural, and it will probably be the last one committed, because men never give up so soon and so easily as they do in this line.

Lying is seduced by constitutionalism in sun-folk, so is the rich constitutionalism, because folks hang around where it is, and most do not for it after they get caught in it.

Finally, I might as well own it—I have told a very few lies myself, but I have not told a single one since.

Saturday Press. J. B. BILLINGS.

REPORTS AND BILLS IN PROGRESS.—The House committee on the judiciary have decided to report in favor of amending the constitution as to prohibit any assumption of power by the President.

Mr. Allen of Mass., chairman of the post office committee, will soon offer a resolution to the effect that the government shall take possession of the telegraph lines of the country, and conduct them as it does the postal service.

The House committee on appropriations have decided to reduce the salary of the President from \$50,000 to \$40,000.

THE YOUNG ANIMAL MAN.—The helplessness of infancy appeals to all that is chivalric and Christian in our hearts, but to dignify it is to make it a stranger.

The Boston Journal says: "A gentleman in traveling along the coast of Florida and Georgia found a woman who did not know what a newspaper was. She had several children and a pipe in her mouth."

Scraps.—The new back hair twist which has superseded the waterfall, is called the water wheel.

Brigham Young is, indeed, a pillar of Salt Lake. The sugar of a wife is—Lots.

The winter paper says the best way to kill bed-bugs is to chain their hind legs to a tree then ground in front and make mouths at them.

"Dear Harry: You ask me what sort of a game I am playing with Jack Graham for Christmas. I have to say, in reply, it is a game of 'double or nothing' and the result is that I double and he quits."

A Western farmer, investing his accumulations in U. S. bonds, was asked by the clerk what denomination he would have them in. Having never heard that word used, he replied: "Well, you may give me part in old school Presbyterian, to please the old lady, but give me the best on 'em in Free-Will Baptist."

Black-black boy to returned soldier—"Black your boots, 'til 'em make 'em shine!" Looking to the soldier, he said: "You are a good fellow, but you are a returned soldier, and you are a returned soldier."

The Free Press.

GEO. W. & G. G. BENEDICT.

Editors and Proprietors.

BURLINGTON
FRIDAY MORNING DEC. 29, 1865.

The Progress of Reconstruction.

Proclamations and messages, and reports from high officials, follow each other now-a-days, with a rapidity almost bewildering, and many of them of a length entirely beyond the limits of the smaller papers.

While Congress is laboring under the impression that the question of reconstruction rests upon its action, and is taking its time to consider on what terms the rebel States shall be admitted, the President and Secretary of State, in the Proclamation announcing the adoption of the Constitutional amendment, place seven of those States in the list of States in the Union; fully limited to the charge of their own citizens, or of the Governors chosen by them, the government of two of those States, and will doubtless at once take similar action with reference to every second State that has adopted the amendment.

The question naturally occurs, if those States are in the Union sufficiently to co-operate, and secure official recognition with the rest in that important action, the amendment of the Constitution, and to be allowed the choice of their governors and the conduct of their own affairs, why are they not in, sufficiently to have a representation in Congress? Are we to have States of the Union, without representation in the National Legislature? That seems to be the case, for Congress has the sole control of the admission of its own members, and may decline to be crowded along, any faster than it chooses, by President or Secretary.

Still it would be a painful anomaly, and one which no patriot can desire to see continued a day longer than is necessary.

General Grant's Report.—Gen. Grant's report on the condition of the Southern States, will command attention from the high position of its author, and have value from the general confidence in his sound sense and fairness. It would be more valuable, doubtless, if its conclusions were based on longer and wider observation. A day each at Raleigh, Savannah, and Augusta, and two days at Charleston, is not as extensive a tour of inspection as can be conceived. But doubtless Gen. Grant has had many means of arriving at conclusions on the condition of the South in addition to his personal observations on his last tour. Two of his conclusions, at any rate, will be readily accepted, viz., that United States garrisons must be maintained throughout the South, and that the freedmen must have friendly care and laws to protect them.

We are sorry, however, that the General did not take more time and give the country a somewhat more explicit and detailed report. A document from him on the condition of the rebel States, prepared with the care and care which marked his military report, would be invaluable just now.

GEN. HOWARD'S REPORT.—Gen. Howard's report of the operations of the Freedmen's Bureau during the past year is a lengthy document, going largely into the details of the subject. Toward the close, Gen. Howard states some of the general conclusions to which he has arrived. The first is as follows: "That free labor, notwithstanding the sudden emancipation, and the thousands of cases of disturbance incident to the war, will prove successful; but in order to hasten the result, every effort must be made by officers of the Government and all others concerned to secure confidence between the holders of property and the freedmen, that confidence which is the basis of all progress."

On the part of the freedmen, they are looking for justice and privileges of free men. On the part of the property holders, great complaint is made for want of security of labor, the majority seeking some compulsory process; that is, some substitute for slavery. There are so many examples of complete success of free labor, that it is not surprising that the cause of complaints, and I believe that the causes of complaints are due as much to the prejudice of the employer and the want of practical knowledge of any other system than the one under which he has been brought up, as to the ignorance and suspicion of the laborer. I therefore earnestly advise equality before the law, treating to time and education to overcome prejudice and ignorance."

Gen. Howard then gives ten weighty reasons why the Bureau, or some substitute for it, should be continued. His fifth one is of sufficient itself, viz.: "Every colored man I met, of any considerable intelligence, pleaded earnestly for the continuance of the Bureau, as his only hope of justice and privilege correspondent to the necessities of his new position."

He further thinks that some general system of providing for the aged, infirm and helpless negroes, beyond the scope of the present laws, ought to be established. Aid should be rendered to those who may wish to take advantage of the homestead law. Gen. Howard's sixth conclusion is as follows: "That in order to place education on a firm basis than it now is, it would be well to devote those funds raised during the war, under the Treasury law, for the benefit of the Freedmen, to securing sites and buildings for school purposes in the different States, to be held as United States property, until the people in each State shall be able to purchase the same; school buildings should not be exclusively for freedmen; for any aid given to educate the freedmen, it should be able to purchase the same; school buildings should not be exclusively for freedmen; for any aid given to educate the freedmen, it should be able to purchase the same."

Gen. Howard's report estimates that eleven millions of dollars will be necessary for the support of the Freedmen's Bureau for the year 1866. He asks the appropriation of this amount, three millions of which are for the purchase and building of sites and edifices for schools and asylums in the South for both black and white. His report closes with the following remark:

"I do not feel that the difficult problems given me have been solved, nor do I hope for complete and satisfactory results in the work of this Bureau. Yet I firmly believe that the same just God that conducted us to freedom, will be able to direct us that we shall be able to keep the pledge we have made, that that freedom shall be a substantial reality."

In consequence of the remarks in Gen. Grant's late report, Gen. Howard has issued an order calling the attention of Assistant Commissioners to that report, and saying that the most thorough inspection will at once be made, and the evils complained of corrected.

THROUGH SLEEPING CAR.—At a recent arrangement of the managers of the Rutland Road, passengers leaving New York at 6 P. M., arrive here at 7.45 A. M., and leaving here at 10 P. M., reach New York at 10.30 A. M. This is a decided improvement on the former arrangement, for passengers coming from New York.

MR. HEYER'S PAINTINGS.—Eight paintings by C. L. Heyer were distributed by lot last week at the office of Mr. J. R. Hickok, as follows:

"Manfred Mountain," drawn by John Lowry.
"Sunset, St. Albans," D. G. Wells.
"Lake Champlain," H. A. Johnson.
"Black River, Upper Canada," J. D. Hatch.
"Lone Rock Point," J. A. Arthur.
"Glimpse of Winokki," H. Austin.
"Lake Champlain," L. H. Tark.
"Effect on St. Albans Bay," F. A. Platt.

MASSON.—The annual session of the Masonic Grand Lodge of Vermont, will be held at Rutland, on Wednesday, January 10, 1866. The following Railroads will carry persons in attendance for fare one way: Rutland and Burlington, Vermont Valley, Vermont and Canada, Vermont Central, Sullivan, Passumpsic, Western Vermont, Rutland and Washington.

R. R. ACCIDENT.—A collision occurred on the 21st on the Vt. Central between the night Boston train and a freight train which got off the track between Northfield and Montpelier. The result was a considerable smashing up of cars and the derangement and delay of all the trains through the day. No one was much hurt.

EXTENSION OF THE BREAKWATER.—We are glad to learn that measures are in progress to procure from Congress an extension of the breakwater in our bay. Mr. Henry Rolfe, who is giving his attention to the subject, informs us that an extension of 1500 feet is needed on the north end fully to protect the lumber wharves, which as much more will be required in time on the south end to guard the proposed improvements about the Rutland dock and the iron works. If secured, it is probable these additions will be placed 20 or 300 feet further out into the bay than the present breakwater, thus leaving intervals through which vessels can pass in and out.

PROF. BAKER'S CONCERT.—A select and cultivated audience, and of good number considering the inclemency of the evening, attended the Concert Friday evening, and doubtless felt themselves well repaid for going—aside from the pleasure which all take in encouraging home talent. Miss Tennant has a clear ringing voice, of considerable power, which, when by sufficient cultivation it becomes perfectly true throughout its register, will be a remarkably fine one. She was enthusiastically cheered after singing the aria "She led him through the trackless wild," and responded with the Scotch lullaby "Down the burn," which was also heartily applauded. Prof. Baker sang a bass solo from the Messiah, and Russell's Manie, and was liberally applauded. Mr. Monroe played with excellent taste and expression a piece by Krug, and a pretty Mazurka, and in response to a hearty encore, gave "The Mocking Bird," with Hoffman's brilliant variations. Perhaps the most noticeable feature was the singing of the class of 16 young ladies and misses, who rendered some of the choruses from Faust, Martha and I Lombardi, in a manner which did high credit to themselves and their instructor.

MECHANICAL CONVENTION.—The sixteenth convention of the Western Vermont Mechanical Association is to be held at St. Albans on the 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 days of January next. Two Grand Conventions are to be given on the evenings of the last two days.

JUSTIN W. MOODY has been appointed Postmaster at Waterbury, in place of John F. Henry, resigned.

THE WEATHER.—The tail of the heavy snow storm, announced from Buffalo last evening, appears to have reached us. Three or four inches snow fell Thursday night and next morning, and runners and wheels have held a divided control in our streets. Friday the wind changed Friday morning from the South to a north-west gale; the mercury fell two degrees in hour during the forenoon, standing at 12° at noon; and till the cold moderates, we cannot expect much snow.

HAILED BY.—Joseph Limoge was last week brought before Justice Hollenbeck, and fined \$10 and cost for illegal sales of liquor.

THE HOLIDAYS.—The Photograph men tell the simple truth when they say there is no more acceptable present to a true friend than a good likeness of one's countenance, be it plain or handsome. It is also true that there is probably not a place of its size that has more handsome and more convenient photographic establishments, than those of Burlington. Styles' beautiful gallery is but a step up from the sidewalk, and is worth a call, whether one wants a picture or not. We warn all visitors, however, that the attractions in the shape of a large and varied stock of photographic albums, pictures of well known citizens, life-like as to tempt any one to sit down and

have his head "taken off," elegant views of Vermont scenery, cards of notabilities such as everybody wishes to stock his album with, and everything else in the line, will prove well nigh irresistible, and they may be prepared to pay as well as to look and admire.

G. B. DAVIS now runs the spacious and handsome gallery in Union Block, formerly Charles Miller's, and with the aid of Prof. Hills, keeps up fully the attractions of that well known establishment. The variety of styles of likenesses, from the beautiful porcelain pictures, or India ink "impressions" down to little "gems," 12 for a dollar, is noticeable, and the stock of albums and fancy frames and cases is not small.

Still another competitor, whose gallery has its share of sunshine, and claims its share of favor, is HARTMAN'S, over Lyman's Store, on the corner of Church and College streets. It will be seen that he announces prices down to the lowest.

OUR DAY GOODS STORES.—After all, there are many sensible people who sensibly consider the best kind of Holiday present to be some useful or elegant article of personal apparel—shawls or gloves or dress patterns.

The not unnatural consequence is a lively season in our dry goods stores, for which our merchants have prepared by having in large supplies of fresh and tasteful goods. A tour through them is quite an interesting experience about these days. Commencing at the nearest corner, we find EDWARD LYMAN always on hand at his old and favorite stand, the "corner store," now a little fuller than ever of most desirable goods, selected with care and care of one who has served the public taste till he knows just how to hit it. Just look at his point lace collars, embroidered handkerchiefs, fancy worsted work, shawls and dress goods. Surely no one can fail to be suited with goods of his price.

But we leave and drop across the street diagonally into the DAY HIVE, and find Mr. PIERCE's shelves and counters piled with rich and beautiful goods, silks and velvets, laces and shawls, carpets and oil-cloths, and the best assortment of cloaks in the State, all reasonably priced, and worth an examination by any one who wishes to buy.

Passing around the corner into Church street, we find ourselves in PIERCE & BERT's store-way, and would pass in were it not for the crowd of lady customers. The Captain knows dry goods "like a book," and his word as to the quality of his goods is as good as his bond. The same is true of his partner. There are no better men to deal with.

Crossing Church street, we drop in at EDWARD BARLOW'S. Look at the lace collars and rich dress goods, and the variety in every line. The ladies do just what they want to when they find a store where they can get what they want at such low prices, and you can almost always find it at Barlow's. The taste, care and enterprise which he gives to his business, is the sure guaranty of solid success.

Further up the street, we come to the new store of FRISBEE & Loomis. Everything, firm, store and goods, is new and fresh and satisfactory. The stand is a very convenient one to catch business, and is bound to be a favorite shopping place. Don't fail to give them a call.

Last but by no means least we come to SMITH & PLATT'S in Union Block. Mr. Smith is just back from market, with a stock of goods just before the recent rise. Here are splendid broadcloths, cloackings, dress cottons, substantial carpets, elegant dress goods, a rich and full variety in every line. There is no need of sending to the cities, now-a-days, for our merchants keep fully supplied with the best goods, and you can buy at a better lay at home, everywhere that is veritably so.

But we must hurry round. We should be glad if time and space permitted to describe the resources of our CHURCHING STORES—we could dilate on COLVER & TERRY's big store, one of the "institutions" of Burlington, where by the way a nice stock of scarfs and ties, may be found—very suitable presents for young gentlemen—or on A. PLATT's new and tasteful and well filled store on Church Street, and would not forget MURRAY's good stock and skill as a draper and tailor.

We could talk about PROCTOR's boots and shoes, and WHEELER & RIPLEY's shawls and cloaks, and about the CROCKERY STORES, SHERRIS, WALKERS & WILKS, and S. S. BROWN, side by side in Union Block, full of nice goods, and powerful competitors for public patronage; about PIERCE's groceries and sleds and willow wares, and HART'S sleds and groceries and Yankee notions, and the new grocery establishment of LONGERAN & MOSHMAN on the west side of the square, and BUDGETT & CO.'s big stock of stores and tin ware, and A. C. SPRAKE's neat and valuable drug store, and SHATTUCK & FLANAGAN's furs, and HUNTERDOD & WAINWRIGHT'S flour and grain, and HODG'S liniment, so good for frost-bite; and our advertisers, one and all; but our space fails us and we forget. To each one of them, and to the additional crowd who are proposing to do business on modern principles and put money in their pockets by advertising with us the coming year, for the accommodation of those who are preparing to enlarge our sheet, we wish all success and prosperity—a busy time, holidays and other days, a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY.—The American Bible Society is now in the fifth year of its operations, having been organized on the second Wednesday of May, 1861. Just as the year has opened upon us, God in his Providence has summoned us to several new endeavors of great importance and magnitude, thus crowning and honoring our humble labors in the past.

We seem to be thus called upon to celebrate our Jubilee Year by undertaking the following extraordinary enterprises:

1. The re-supply of the South, where a vast proportion of the people are now without Bibles and anxious to receive them, and where means are being inaugurated for circulating at least 1,000,000 copies.

2. The supply of such Freedmen as are able to read, multitudes of whom are rapidly learning for the purpose of perusing the inspired Word before they die. To meet the wants of the aged among them, an edition of the Gospel of John, in large print, is just prepared.

Having labored the past year as army agent of the Bible Society among the soldiers, citizens and freedmen of Virginia and North Carolina the subscriber can testify to the interesting character and vast importance of these efforts.

3. The circulation of the Spanish Scriptures in Mexico and South America, where agents are at work and where hundreds of thousands of copies will be gladly received and read by the people.

4. The printing of the new version of the Arabic Scriptures, the first edition of which, together with the preparation of the electotype plates, will cost the Society this year from seventy to eighty thousand dollars. The Arabic is the spoken language of one hundred and twenty millions of people. If after the plates are finished, we can print two hundred thousand copies annually for one hundred and twenty years, we should just put one Bible in each family!

5. The re-supply of the South, where a vast proportion of the people are now without Bibles and anxious to receive them, and where means are being inaugurated for circulating at least 1,000,000 copies.

While called to these unusual efforts, the ordinary work cannot safely be neglected. The Bible has been wisely pronounced the Charter of Liberty to the world, and our recent national experience teaches us, in every possible way to develop and strengthen the elements of free government. To do it we must keep the Bible in the hands of the masses.

It is thought important that every community should be canvassed and supplied once in five years. It is much more than that since this war has been done throughout this State. At its annual meeting, the Vermont Bible Society voted to re-canvass the State. Two agents are already in the field for this purpose, and others will be employed as soon as suitable men can be found.

Sister States are responding nobly to the voice of Providence calling us to enlarged labors. Massachusetts Bible Society has appropriated five thousand dollars for the Arabic Scriptures. Illinois is endeavoring to make her special Jubilee offering fifty thousand dollars. Others are making similar efforts. We trust Vermont will not be behind her sister States in this sublime effort. A large increase of funds seems indispensable to the discharge of our obligations.

The agent can visit comparatively few of the churches. We may not rely upon pastors of every name, to bring the cause faithfully before their people! And will not every lover of the Bible, and every lover of his home, contribute his mite, and those of a larger stewardship give as God hath prospered? We do not ask you to turn aside other benevolent objects which the Bible has developed, but do not forget this time, honored and heaven-blessed institution in this most interesting crisis of its history.

WM. H. GILBERT.
Agent Am. and Vt. Bible Societies.
Burlington, Dec. 14, 1865.

OUR SOLDIERS' GRAVES.—We have received from Washington, a list of Vermont soldiers whose remains were found on the battle fields of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania C. H. Virginia, and interred last summer by order of Gen. Meigs, and head-boards set up, marked with name, rank and regiment:

Name. Regt. Name. Regt.
Burianck C. corp. 3. Lane T. 1st reg. 6
Buskey Frank, 17. Mitchell Isaac, 17
Carpenter J. W. capt. 4. Newton H. 17
Clark James H. 3. Ormsbury W. 4
Cook Charles A. 3. Ormsbury E. 3
Cottie Henry, 17. Sawtell Geo F. 3
Cargill G. C. 17. Sanderson C. W. 4
Davis L. W. 17. Scott J. S. 4
Gray Charles, 17. Whitcomb A. 17
Haskell Moody, 17. Batey David, 3
Holburn James, 17

Our correspondent adds: These soldiers were buried in June, 1865, by a party sent from this city, and are all the Vermont soldiers whose bodies could be identified on the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House battle fields. The bones of the men were gathered from the field where they fell—having been exposed more than a year. In the Wilderness, there are two cemeteries—No. 1, on the Orange Court House turnpike, about two miles from the Wilderness Tavern. One hundred and eighty men are buried here. Cemetery No. 2, is on the Orange Court House plank road, near the one-half mile from the junction with the pike, and contains the remains of five hundred and thirty-four men.

On the Spotsylvania battle ground, but few bodies were found unburied. The cemetery there contains over seven hundred bodies. They were interred by Mr. Sanford, a resident at Spotsylvania Court House.

MINISTERS AND CHURCHES.—A young minister, Rev. Mr. Dexter, has recently taken the pastoral charge of the Baptist Church in Windsor.

Rev. T. H. Archibald has lately resigned his charge as pastor of the Baptist Church in Mt. Holly.

The St. Albans Messenger announces preaching at the Academy Hall in that place by the Rev. Dr. Bigelow, formerly of Keeseville, N. Y., and states that this is the first step in the execution of a long cherished purpose among the Baptists of that town—the establishment of a church.

The Congregational Society in Montpelier, Mr. Lord's, are taking preliminary steps toward building a new house of worship, and will doubtless erect one worthy of so large and wealthy a Society.

Mr. Beecher's Church in Brooklyn, last Sunday, took up a collection of \$10,000 to wards the \$200,000 fund for Congregational extension. Another church in Brooklyn gave \$3,350. The Boston churches took up large collections, and returns thus far received give reason to believe that the effort will be successful.

FOREIGN MINISTERS.—It is reported from Washington, that the President Friday morning, nominated Lewis D. Campbell of Ohio, to be Minister Extraordinary to the Republic of Mexico, in the place of Gen. Logan, declined, and that John John Logan, who was appointed ad interim minister to France, has been nominated by the President for confirmation.

A writer in Blackwood says that when people want to speak of a native of Holland, they call him an Amsterdam Dutchman, and when they speak of a German race generally, they leave out the Amster.

THE LATE SENATOR COLLAMER.

TrIBUTES TO HIS MEMORY.—The following is the continuation of Mr. Morrill's remarks in the House, in introducing resolutions of respect to the memory of Senator Collamer:

As a judge, he was distinguished for wisdom in the dispatch of business, for ability and stern impartiality, and for the perspicacity of his mind. He was a man of high moral character, and he never forgot the gravity and dignity of his judicial position, which sometimes gave the impression of severity and sternness. He was a good disciplinarian, and, therefore, occasionally curt, as when the time of court was unnecessarily consumed by illogical or irrelevant speeches, and the unfortunate members of the bar, or casual observers, may have thought he was sour and cold, when he was really, to those who knew him, a man of excellent humor, and as appreciative of merit as of demerit. While he had a full grasp and comprehension of the principles of law, his memory never failed to supply him with the details of the law, and he was a most accurate and reliable authority. Under his administration, justice was done with a promptness and efficiency that was a rare example in the history of our country, and it was, in fact, what cabinets were designed to be, the wise and efficient management of the Government. He was a man of high moral character, and he never forgot the gravity and dignity of his judicial position, which sometimes gave the impression of severity and sternness. He was a good disciplinarian, and, therefore, occasionally curt, as when the time of court was unnecessarily consumed by illogical or irrelevant speeches, and the unfortunate members of the bar, or casual observers, may have thought he was sour and cold, when he was really, to those who knew him, a man of excellent humor, and as appreciative of merit as of demerit. While he had a full grasp and comprehension of the principles of law, his memory never failed to supply him with the details of the law, and he was a most accurate and reliable authority. Under his administration, justice was done with a promptness and efficiency that was a rare example in the history of our country, and it was, in fact, what cabinets were designed to be, the wise and efficient management of the Government.

It will be remembered that the Cabinet of Great Britain, in the history of the world, has never been so long as his. He was a man of high moral character, and he never forgot the gravity and dignity of his judicial position, which sometimes gave the impression of severity and sternness. He was a good disciplinarian, and, therefore, occasionally curt, as when the time of court was unnecessarily consumed by illogical or irrelevant speeches, and the unfortunate members of the bar, or casual observers, may have thought he was sour and cold, when he was really, to those who knew him, a man of excellent humor, and as appreciative of merit as of demerit. While he had a full grasp and comprehension of the principles of law, his memory never failed to supply him with the details of the law, and he was a most accurate and reliable authority. Under his administration, justice was done with a promptness and efficiency that was a rare example in the history of our country, and it was, in fact, what cabinets were designed to be, the wise and efficient management of the Government.

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